

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12423 021043Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NAS-01 /021 W
-----048110 031227Z /53

R 021034Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488
USICA WASHDC

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LONDON FOR RRV, O'CONNOR
DEPT PASS NAS FOR TODD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OEXC, UR, US
SUBJECT: INTER-ACADEMY AGREEMENT: SHIPMENT VIA THE
POUCH TO US NAS EXCHANGE OF UNSOLICITED RELIGIOUS
MATERIAL (21.00)

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED VIA POUCH A LARGE BOX OF
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE RELIGIOUS MATERIAL ADDRESSED TO DR.
NEAL KOBLITZ, A US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
EXCHANGE AT THE STEKLOV INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS HERE.
THE SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF NUMEROUS COPIES OF THE JOURNAL
VOZROZHDENIYA (REVIVAL). SENDER IS LISTED AS
LUBOVITCH PUBLICATIONS, LUBOVITCH HOUSE, 107-115 STAM-
FORD HILL, LONDON N16 5RP.

2. UPON ARRIVAL OF SHIPMENT SCICOUNS TOLD KOBLITZ
THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT TURN THESE MATERIALS OVER TO HIM
BUT WOULD HAVE TO RETURN THEM TO SENDER. KOBLITZ
DENIED SOLICITING THESE MATERIALS AND AGREED TO
THEIR RETURN. KOBLITZ IS CONCERNED THAT THIS
INCIDENT NOT JEOPARDIZE HIS STATUS HERE. HE SPECULATES
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12423 021043Z

THAT EMIGRE ACQUAINTANCES IN THE US MAY HAVE PROVIDED
KOBLITZ'S NAME AND ADDRESS TO LUBOVITCH IN THE HOPES THAT
HE WOULD DISSEMINATE THE MATERIALS TO HIS CIRCLE OF
SOVIET ACQUAINTANCES HERE.

3. ON MAY 25, A MR. KALMS CALLED THE EMBASSY FROM
LONDON AND INQUIRED IF KOBLITZ HAD RECEIVED A PACKAGE

OF "RELIGIOUS MATERIALS SENT FROM ENGLAND." IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER, EMBASSY CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER RESPONDED IN THE NEGATIVE AND CUT SHORT CONVERSATION WITH KALMS. HE HAS NOT CALLED AGAIN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. FOR LONDON: BOTH EMBASSY AND KOBLITZ ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID A DUPLICATION OF KALMS' TELCON AND SHIPMENTS OF RELIGIOUS MATERIALS HERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT KALMS, PRESUMABLY AT LUBOVITCH PUBLICATIONS (TELEPHONE 01-800-0022), AND ADVISE HIM TO TERMINATE SUCH SHIPMENTS AND ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT KOBLITZ BY TELEPHONE. YOU SHOULD STRESS ALSO THAT

-- KOBLITZ HAS NOT REQUESTED SUCH MATERIALS AND EMBASSY COULD NOT, IN ANY CASE, TURN THEM OVER TO HIM;

-- DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS SUCH AS THESE VIOLATES SOVIET LAW AND WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE KOBLITZ'S CURRENT POSITION AND POSSIBLY THE INTER-ACADEMY EXCHANGE;

-- ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER OVER THE TELEPHONE WILL ONLY ALERT SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND CAST SUSPICION ON KOBLITZ; AND

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 12423 021043Z

-- WE ARE RETURNING THE MATERIALS AND WILL TREAT SIMILAR SHIPMENTS IN LIKE MANNER. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PAPERS, RELIGION, POUCH SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW12423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-1129
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806103/aaaadkfx.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca22777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2145471
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTER-ACADEMY AGREEMENT: SHIPMENT VIA THE POUCH TO US NAS EXCHANGE OF UNSOLICITED RELICIOUS MATERIAL (21.00)
TAGS: TGEN, OEXC, UR, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca22777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014